

Highlights Summary and Actions List

Federal Workgroup Meeting Gulf of Mexico Regional Partnership July 8, 2005

Follow-up Actions

- Email the Federal Workgroup (FWG) the 8-page draft meeting summary from Naples meeting (Griffith)
- Email to K. Andrews and the Alliance the proposed *Plan of Action* framework for review and comment (Griffith) – will discuss during July 12 Alliance Management Team conference call
- Email to K. Andrews and the Alliance the proposed conference call schedule to refine state needs (Griffith) – will discuss during July 12 Alliance Management Team conference call
- Email to FWG detailing conference call schedule to refine state needs and soliciting volunteer federal co-coordinators (in addition to GMP staff) and experts to participate in conference calls (Griffith) – response requested by July 13 (although the default agencies are the focus area co-leads) – these federal support groups should convene by July 15 to develop an initial list of focus questions for the first conference call with the Alliance representatives
- Email FWG with logistical information for August 10-11 State-Federal Work Session (Griffith)
- Have FWG Working Website online by July 14 FWG conference call (Ache) – include all files presented at July 8 FWG meeting
- Email to FWG requesting documents to post on Working Website (Ache)
- Convene a small group to develop a federal agency function inventory proposal (Farrow and Martin) – volunteer participants include Dan Farrow, Lynn Martin, Columbus Brown, Marie Borns, Miles Croom, and Jimmy Johnston
- Develop a draft federal agency function inventory proposal by July 14 FWG conference call (Farrow and Martin) – have the draft final ready for presentation to the Alliance at the August 10-11 work session

Highlights Summary

- DOI, USFWS, USGS, MMS, and NPS each presented their mission and potential contributions to an integrated federal response to the Alliance white papers (presentations will be available on the FWG Working Website)
- Working towards a Sept. 15 deadline for the draft *Plan of Action*
- Refinement of state needs
 - Will be the focus of the August 10-11 State-Federal Work Session

- FWG will offer support to Alliance to help refine state needs through a series of 3 conference calls before the August 10-11 milestone. Federal agency experts and facilitator will be available to work with state experts, on a focus area basis, to help everyone achieve need statements that are “actionable.” A proposal to do this, including a proposed schedule of conference calls, will be available on the FWG Working Website. This proposal must be presented and agreed to by the Alliance.
- Assuming Alliance approval, federal co-leads and agency experts will be solicited to host and participate in these supporting conference calls.
- Griffith presented a conceptual plan to map state needs to the USOAP, and utilize the USOAP outline as the organizing framework for the *Plan of Action*, making the *Plan of Action* an “implementation chapter” of the USOAP. A proposal to do this will be available on the FWG Working Website. This proposal must be presented and agreed to by the Alliance.
- Characterizing federal agency assets
 - Farrow and Martin proposed an inventory of federal agency assets available to support the Alliance. The proposal will be available on the FWG Working Website.
 - There is significant value in providing program information in a consistent format, but must specify uses and define endpoints to this task – the key question is “how will this information be used?”
 - There was concurrence to do an inventory, but no decision on at what level this should be done. Consequently a small working group will be convened to develop a proposal for the FWG. Volunteers include Dan Farrow, Lynn Martin, Columbus Brown, Marie Borns, Miles Croom, and Jimmy Johnston.
 - There was general agreement that the FWG could produce a program-level functions matrix (from 5 to 10 agency functions matrixed with 5 Alliance focus areas), including agency contact information, that would be an appendix to the *Plan of Action*
 - There was a proposal to consider holding “federal program seminars,” potentially by Alliance focus area, to put a face with federal agency programs
- The FWG agreed that this is an open, non-exclusive process, and participation by other interested organizations – for example, SARP, GSFMC, Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, Regional Associations, NGOs, and business and industry – should be actively supported

Meeting Participants

Attendees

- Brent Ache, NOAA
- Dennis Barnett, USACE
- Mary Boatman, MMS
- Marie Borns, USACE

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- Bob Bosenberg, USACE
- Gary Brewer, USGS
- Columbus Brown, USFWS
- Gloria Car, EPA / GMP
- Sue Cielinski, USFWS
- Miles Croom, NOAA / NMFS
- Margaret Davidson, NOAA / CSC
- Dan Farrow, NOAA
- Serri Fields, NPS / SERO
- Bryon Griffith, EPA / GMP
- Jimmy Johnston, USGS / NWRC
- Dawn Lavoie, USGS
- Lynn Martin, USACE
- Terry McPherson, NASA
- Kevin Moody, USDOT / FHWA
- Helena Schaefer, USGS
- Charles Whitmore, USDA / NRCS

By Phone

- Jack Hayes, NOAA
- George Hoskin, HHS / FDA
- Christy Loper, NOAA
- Roxanne Nikolaus, NSF
- Larry Sperling, DOS